

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Reconsideration and allowance of the above-identified application are respectfully requested. Upon entry of this response, claims 1-19 will be pending, claims 1, 6, 12 and 15 are independent. Claims 1 and 4 have been amended herein to better define Applicant's invention. Specifically, claims 1 and 4 have been amended to refer to "the *identified* image file" as opposed to "the *determined* image file" based on the previous limitation which states "*identifying* an image file". Though a lack of antecedent basis was not previously asserted by the Examiner for "the determined image file", the present amendment is believed to better clarify the elements of the claim and their relationships. Furthermore, the amendments reflect the language used in claims 6 and 12. As such, these amendments do not introduce new matter which would require further search and/or consideration. Claims 6-14 have not been amended and thus do not include new subject matter that would require further search and/or consideration. New claim 15 incorporates the Examiner's suggestion as made on page 3 of the Final rejection. That is, new claim 15 incorporates the text of claim 1 with the Examiner's suggested language inserted on the last line of the claim. As such, new claim 15, and claims 16-19 dependent there from, are in condition for immediate allowance and also do not constitute subject matter that would require further search and/or consideration. As such, entry of this amendment and full consideration are respectfully requested.

Regarding the repeated rejection of claims 1-14 as anticipated by 2003/0179953 to Ishizaka, Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection for at least the following reasons.

Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. §102

The Examiner has again rejected claims 1-14 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Published Patent Application No. 2003/0179953 to Ishizaka. However, as Applicant argued in the previous response, Ishizaka does not disclose every limitation of the claimed invention and thus cannot anticipate the instant claims. Specifically, Ishizaka does not disclose a method that includes *determining an enlargement ratio corresponding to the determined number of pixels*. Ishizaka does not and in fact cannot anticipate this method step because Ishizaka does not disclose, teach or suggest the proceeding method step upon which it is based; that is, Ishizaka does not disclose *determining the number of pixels of the image*.

In the Final Office action, it is asserted that the enlargement of a 3x3 pixel area to a 4x4 pixel area, as shown in Ishizaka's figure 14, anticipates the claimed method of *determining the number of pixels of the image*. Ishizaka does disclose in figure 14 the enlargement of a 3x3 *pixel area*. However, this disclosure does not anticipate the claimed invention. The 3x3 pixel area of Ishizaka's figure 14 does not represent "the number of pixels of the image" as instantly claimed and it is certainly not a *determination* of the number of pixels of the image. Rather Ishizaka discloses in paragraph [0139] that the 3x3 pixel area is a "range block." The relation of a "range block" to an original image from which it is taken is shown by Ishizaka in figure 7 and explained in paragraph [0094]. Ishizaka discloses that "a search block larger than the notable block is set as a range block." Ishizaka does not disclose that the 3x3 pixel area is, or even represents, the number of pixels of the image. The 3x3 pixel area is a "range block" that has been set regardless of *the number of pixels of the image*.

Ishizaka further discloses in paragraph [0070] that “a range block extraction section 664 for extracting a *plurality* of range block images each of size R0” is provided. (*Emphasis added*). The 3x3 pixel area is not the result of a *determination of the number of pixels of the image* but is instead one of a *plurality* of areas, each having a random dimension (R0), extracted from the original image without regard for the number of pixels of the image. The 3x3 pixel area is *not* the number of pixels of the image. Nowhere does Ishizaka disclose, teach or suggest *determining the number of pixels of the image* as instantly claimed.

Accordingly, because Ishizaka does not disclose *determining the number of pixels of the image*, Ishizaka cannot disclose *determining an enlargement ratio corresponding to the determined number of pixels* as required by the claimed invention. As argued by Applicant in the previous response, Ishizaka’s enlargement ratio does not *correspond* to the *determined* number of pixels; rather, Ishizaka’s enlargement ratio is set, regardless of the number of pixels of the image. In fact, as best understood from Ishizaka’s disclosure, Ishizaka’s enlargement ratio is set with no dependence or correspondence to any other parameter, let alone the number of pixels of the image. The enlargement process of Ishizaka, as discussed beginning at paragraph [0097], *presets* initial parameters *including the enlargement ratio*. See paragraph [0099]. Nowhere does Ishizaka disclose, teach or suggest that the enlargement ratio is determined corresponding to the determined number of pixels.

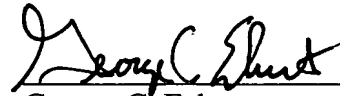
The Final Office action asserts that Ishizaka *does* determine an enlargement ratio corresponding to the determined number of pixels since Ishizaka discloses a step for determining a new value for pixel Q21 (that the enlarged value of Q21 is equal to

summation of pixels P11 and P21 and divided by the number of pixels in original image). However, the asserted step is not a method of *determining an enlargement ratio* but is instead merely an algorithm used to determine a new value for pixel Q21 based on an enlargement ratio *already pre-decided*. Ishizaka states that, “to generate an initial twice enlarged image..., processing of enlarging a 3x3 range block to a 4x4 size becomes necessary.” See [0139]. The value of Q21 was calculated based on a predetermined enlargement ratio; determining the value of Q21 is *not* a method of determining an enlargement ratio, it is a method of determining a pixel value as one step in an enlargement process when the enlargement ratio is already set. This is best explained by Ishizaka beginning at paragraph [0133] with reference to figures 13 and 14, and especially paragraph [0140]. In all, Ishizaka does not teach the claimed method of determining the number of pixels of the image and does not teach the claimed method of determining an enlargement ratio corresponding to the determined number of pixels. Accordingly, the rejection in view of Ishizaka should be withdrawn.

In view of the above, it is believed that the application is in condition for allowance and notice to this effect is respectfully requested. Should the Examiner have any questions, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number indicated below.

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